Global Warming

353. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate steps are not being taken by the International community to check global warming inspite of resolution passed at the first Earth Summit at Rio-de-Janeiro five years ago; and

(b) what is India's role in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) At the first Earth Summit at Rio-de-Janeiro, a multilateral treaty to check global warming was opened for signatures. This was the United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change. The Convention entered into force from March 21, 1994. The Convention enjoins upon the developed countries to aim to return to their 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions by the end of the year 2000. According to scientific assessments, these commitments are inadequate to check global warming.

(b) The Government of India is concerned at the non-implementation of commitments made by developed countries at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to assist the developing countries with new and additional financial resources and technology for promoting ecologically sustainable development. At various environment related international fora, India has been proposing transfer of financial resources and environmentally sound technologies to the developing countries as per the provisions of the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Funds for pollution control

354. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds allotted for pollution control are being consistently under utilised inspite of the fact that the rate of pollution is increasing at an alarming rate; and

(b) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) In past, there has been under utilisation of funds for prevention and control of pollution. However, as a result of various measures taken by the Government during the preceding financial year (1996-97), the actual expenditure has been more than the allocated budget in the implementation of various schemes in this sector.

Silting of Chilka lake

355. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the largest lake in Orissa, i.e. Chilka lake is silting very rapidly; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government to desilt the lake?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of 112.30 lakhs was provided to the Government of Orissa by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests between 1988-89 and 1990-91 for soil conservation in the catchment area, habitat improvement of Nalabana, database creation and generating awareness. The Tenth Finance Commission has recommended an amount of Rs. 27 crores to the Government of Orissa for preservation of Chilka lake under Special problem Grant. The Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the Commission. Accordingly an action plan for Chilka

lake for 1996-2000 prepared by the Government of Orissa has been approved by the Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee of the Ministry of Finance and a sum of Rs. 4.05 crores has been released for purchase of dredger and taking up dredging activities in October 1997.

Pollution emission by various equipments

356. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimates have been made about extent of pollution emissions by diesel/petrol generating sets being used in cities and villages, oil pumps being used for irrigation and other purposes, and on account of other equipments run on diesel/petrol/furnace oil, etc.;

(b) if so, what are these and their impact on environment and if not, why;

(c) whether the pollution hazards of these equipments are no less dangerous than of automative vehicles; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken or proposed to be taken to check pollution hazards of such equipments?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) No specific study has been done regarding pollution from generators used in cities and villages, oil pumps used for irrigation and other purposes, and other equipments run on diesel/petrol/furnace oil. However, generators/oil pumps/ other equipments run on diesel/petrol/ furnace oil cause air pollution due to emission of carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, hydrocarbons and smoke. Generators also cause noise pollution.

(c) Pollution from generators and other equipments run on diesel/petrol/ furnace oil and automotive vehicles are not comparable because vehicular pollution is not localised and disperses rapidly whereas the diesel generating sets and other equipments run on diesel/ petrol/furnace oil are stationary sources and cause localised build up of pollution.

(d) Steps taken to control air and noise pollution caused by generators and other equipments include:

(1) General emission standards have been notified for diesel generator sets with respect to particulate matter.

(2) Noise standards for the generators have been notified at the manufacturing stage.

(3) Ambient air quality standards have been notified in respect of noise for various category of areas.

(4) Diesel with a sulphur content of 0.5% has already been introduced in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai with effect from 1.4.95. Low sulphur diesel (0.25%) is planned to be supplied throughout the country from 1.4.1999.

Steps taken to protect Indian tiger

357. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has failed to protect tigers as is evident from the recent killing of tiger in "Sariska Sanctuary";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the European Parliament has called upon India to save tiger; and

(d) the concrete steps proposed to protect Indian tigers from the verge of extinction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Tigress while crossing the State Highways No 13 of Rajasthan, opposite Sariska Palace Hotel was knocked down by a speeding truck on 4.6.1997 in the forenoon. The post